

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEDAN 00094 170756Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /030 W

-----170758Z 075565 /11

P 170730Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL MEDAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 686

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDAN 0094

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ID

SUBJ: REPORTED MURDERS IN NORTH SUMATRA

1. MR. LE. E. SIMPSON, AMERICAN FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE WORLD BANK RUBBER SMALLHOLDERS PROJECT AT AEK NABARA, LABUHAN BATU REGENCY, HERE IN NORTH SUMATRA, CAME BY CONSULATE TODAY TO SHARE WITH US INFORMATION HE HAS RECEIVED REGARDING THE MURDER OF FOUR PEOPLE LAST WEEKEND. SIMPSON PROVIDED FOLLOWING DETAILS:

A. THREE MEN AND ONE WOMAN, ALL CHRISTIANS, ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN MURDERED (THEIR THROATS WERE CUT) AT THE VILLAGE OF AEK GOTI ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH 11 & 12, 1977. ALSO, THE HOME OF ANOTHER CHRISTIAN IN THE VILLAGE WAS BURNED.

B. POLICE HAVE ARRESTED 15 PERSONS AS SUSPECTS IN THE CRIMES. TEN OF THE FIFTEEN ARE SMALLHOLDERS PARTICIPATING IN THE WORLD BANK PROJECT (ONE OF THE PROJECT SITES IS AT AEK GOTI). ALL FIFTEEN ARE SAID TO HAVE CONFESSED TO BEING MEMBERS OF AN ORGANIZATION CALLED "KOMANDO ISLAM." SIMPSON KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION BUT SAYS LOCAL POLICE SUSPECT "PKI REMNANTS" TO BE BEHIND THE MURDERS.

C. ALSO ON NIGHT OF MARCH 12, A GUARD WAS ATTACKED AT BANDAR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEDAN 00094 170756Z

GULA, ANOTHER SITE FOR THE WORLD BANK PROJECT, AND SEVERELY BEATEN BUT NOT KILLED. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THIS ATTACK IS RELATED TO MURDERS, BUT POLICE SUSPECT THAT THE "KOMANDO ISLAM" IS ALSO ACTIVE IN THE BANDAR GULA AREA.

D. LOCAL POLICE AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE ESTABLISHED A COMMAND POST AT AEK GOTI TO PREVENT FURTHER INCIDENTS. THEY HAVE

ALSO PROVIDED POLICE AND CIVIL MILITIA (HANSIP) GUARDS TO PROTECT THE HOMES OF THE THREE EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES AND THE INDONESIAN MANAGERS OF THE WORLD BANK PROJECT. IN THE MEANTIME, THE THREE REMAINING CHRISTIAN FAMILIES AT AEK GOTI HAVE MOVED OUT. AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF CHRISTIANS HAVE ALSO LEFT THE BANDAR GULA SITE.

2. MR. SIMPSON SAID HE CANNOT BE CERTAIN OF ACCURACY OF ABOVE INFORMATION BUT STRESSED THAT HE HAD BEEN GIVEN THESE DETAILS BY FOUR DIFFERENT PEOPLE, I.E., THE INDONESIAN MANAGER OF THE WORLD BANK PROJECT, TWO OF THE PROJECT'S UNIT MANAGERS (ALL THREE ARE MOSLEMS), AND A CHRISTIAN MINISTER WHO IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE SIMPSONS. SIMPSON SAID THAT HE AND THE OTHER TWO EXPATRIATE FAMILIES (BOTH BRITISH) ARE NOT CONCERNED FOR THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY SINCE PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE POLICE APPEAR TO BE ADEQUATE. HE HAS PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

3. COMMENT: SO FAR, WE HAVE THIS REPORT ONLY FROM SIMPSON BUT WILL TRY TO CORROBORATE FROM OTHER SOURCES. THIS IS FIRST REPORT OF SIGNIFICANT VIOLENCE IN NORTH SUMATRA SINCE START OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN, AND ON BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE IT IS NOT EVEN POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS ANY TIE BETWEEN MURDERS AND ELECTIO

N.
HOWEVER, CAMPAIGN HAS ALREADY BUILT UP EMOTIONAL ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH EVEN RUMORS OF MURDERS HAVING OVERTONES OF RELIGIOUS CONFLICT COULD BE EXPLOITED, POSSIBLY LEADING TO OTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE. AUTHORITIES CAN BE EXPECTED TO KEEP A TIGHT LID ON THIS SITUATION IN ORDER TO FORESTALL THAT EVENTUALITY.

KILPATRICK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, CHRISTIANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEDAN00094
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770091-0736
Format: TEL
From: MEDAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770350/aaaabrbz.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 87227db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3080978
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED MURDERS IN NORTH SUMATRA
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ID
To: STATE JAKARTA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/87227db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009